



# Harford County Stormwater Pollution Prevention

## OUTDOOR STORAGE

Protecting outdoor storage areas is a simple and effective pollution prevention practice for many commercial, industrial, municipal and transport related operations. The goal for outdoor storage pollution prevention is to prevent contact between stormwater runoff (rainfall) and outdoor materials in order to prevent runoff contamination. Unprotected outdoor storage areas can generate a wide range of stormwater pollutants, such as sediment, nutrients, toxic materials, and oil and grease.



### Pollution Prevention Techniques for Protecting Outdoor Storage Areas

- ✓ If possible, store all materials inside. If this is not feasible, all outside storage areas should be covered with a roof and enclosed to prevent storm water contact. Ensure secondary containment such as berms.
- ✓ Ensure all outdoor storage containers have lids and that they are kept closed. Keep materials and waste off the ground, under roof, and away from places with exposure to precipitation. Consider storing materials on pallets to elevate them. If a roof is not possible, cover the materials securely with an impervious material.
- ✓ Slope containment areas to drain with a positive control (lock, valve, plug) that leads to a sanitary sewer or holding tank. Schedule regular pumping of holding tanks containing stormwater collected from secondary containment areas.
- ✓ Keep an up-to-date inventory of materials stored outdoors and try to minimize them. Label all waste containers.
- ✓ Store liquids in covered labeled containers. Keep these liquids in a designated area on a paved, impervious surface with secondary containment. Barrels and containers with any amount of hazardous material such as oil, chemicals, batteries or paint must be properly labeled, placed in secure containers, and stored in a covered area.
- ✓ Inspect outdoor storage containers regularly to ensure that they are in good condition. Perform inspections by walking the site to look for materials stored outside on a temporary or permanent basis that could come in contact with rainfall and amend any issues found.
- ✓ Position roof downspouts to direct stormwater away from loading and unloading areas. Prevent runoff from reaching storm drain inlets. Ensure there are no streak or stain lines on the way to the storm drain. If these are found, resolve the issue.
- ✓ Train employees on proper material storage and proper techniques for spill containment and cleanup.
- ✓ Cover and contain stockpiles of raw materials to prevent stormwater from running into the covered piles. Covers must be in place at all times when work with the stockpile is not occurring.
- ✓ Keep storage areas clean and dry. Minimize trash. Keep lids on trash/recycling cans, bins, and other outdoor containers. Collect all trash, litter, or debris before it can be washed into the storm drain system.